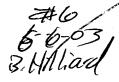


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL
LETTER AND REQUEST FOR
EXTENSION OF TIME
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §
1.136(a)

Docket Number 10677/31

JUN 0 2 2003

Technology Center 2100

Application Number 09/646,626

Filing Date

September 20, 2000

Examiner Shawn M. Becker

Art Unit 2173

Confirmation No. 5098

Invention Title

OPERATOR BUTTONS AS ACTIVE BUTTONS

Inventor(s)

Dieter BAUERFEIND

Address to:

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is an Amendment in response to the January 30, 2003 Office Action.

Applicant respectfully requests a one-month extension of time in which to respond to the January 30, 2003 Office Action, for which a response period expiring on April 30, 2003 was set. The extended period expires on May 30, 2003. Please charge the \$110.00 extension fee to the deposit account of Kenyon & Kenyon, deposit account number 11-0600.

There is no additional claims fee, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fees associated with this communication or arising during the pendency of this application, or to credit any overpayment, to the deposit account of Kenyon & Kenyon, deposit account number 11-0600.

A duplicate of this letter is enclosed.

Dated: Way 27, Zaz

09646626

Richard L. Mayer (Reg. No.

KENYON & KENYON

One Broadway

New York, New York 10004

(212) 425-7200 (telephone) (212) 425-5288 (facsimile)

CUSTOMER NO. 26646

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#7/B 6-6-0-3 Z.H. Hard [10677/31]

N THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

Inventor(s): Dieter BAUERFEIND

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Serial No.:

09/646,626

Group Art Unit: 2173 Technology Center 2100

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For:

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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: MUGL 27, 209

Reg. No. 22,490

Signature:

Richard L. Mayer

AS¹v

AMENDMENT

SIR:

In response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2003, kindly amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the section captioned "Abstract" and replace such deleted section with the following replacement section:

Approgrammable controller has a processing unit, a display screen, an operator unit, and signal inputs and signal outputs. The processing unit, the display screen, the operator unit, the signal inputs, and signal outputs are accommodated in a common housing, and switching functions can be programmed by the user on the basis of predetermined functions by using a menu-assisted user interface on the display screen. A button of the operator unit can be switched to an active button through the use of a programmable function, such that the sequence of a switching function depends on operation of this button.

В